

MARGARET ATWOOD'S *SURFACING*: AN ECO FEMINIST STUDY

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Abstract

The term Eco-feminism is mixture of ecology and feminism. François d' Eaubonne says, "Eco feminism refers to close association of domination of woman and the domination of nature". In Surfacing, Margaret Atwood reveals the exploitation of woman and nature. Her novels are based on environmental crisis. Surfacing movingly dramatizes the eco feminist idea of male domination. In Surfacing, the narrator depicts the exploitation of nature in Canada by civilized Society. When narrator returns to her hometown in search of her father, she witnesses the exploitation of nature by Americans in name of economic development. The narrator compares herself with Heron. She compares brutal murder of Heron with the death of her psychology. She feels disgust with American's action of killing Heron. She feels it one kind of harassment of woman. The protagonist realizes the difference between the life of mother on island and her own city life. The mother accepts the values and tradition, that respect the nature. She is capable of protecting her family's life. But, the protagonist migrates to city and gets exploited there.

Key Words: Ecology, Eco-feminism, protagonist, patriarchy, exploitation.

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The term Eco-feminism is mixture of ecology and feminism. François d' Eaubonne says, "Eco feminism refers to close association of domination of woman and the domination of nature". In *Surfacing*, Margaret Atwood reveals the exploitation of woman and nature. Her novels are based on environmental crisis. *Surfacing* movingly dramatizes the eco feminist idea of male domination. In *Surfacing*, the narrator depicts the exploitation of nature in Canada by civilized Society. When narrator returns to her hometown in search of her father, she witnesses the exploitation of nature by Americans in name of economic development. The narrator compares herself with Heron. She compares brutal murder of Heron with the death of her psychology. She feels disgust with American's action of killing Heron. She feels it one kind of harassment of woman. The protagonist realizes the difference between the life of mother on island and her own city life. The mother accepts the values and tradition, that respect the nature. She is capable of protecting her family's life. But the protagonist migrates to city and gets exploited there.

The aim of eco feminism to liberate the woman and nature from the domination of patriarchy. In order to culminate domination of patriarchy, on woman as well as nature eco feminist emphasizes on the challenge to patriarchal power the present paper focused on inquisition to know eco feminism represented in 'surfacing' by Margaret Atwood.

Surfacing movingly dramatizes the eco feminist idea of male domination. Ariel Salleh, an eco-feminist is of the opinion that the basic premise in eco feminism is acknowledgement of the parceled in men's thinking between their sight to exploit nature, on one hand and the use they make of women on the other. The narrator is more concerned for nature and reveals her consciousness of woman and nature bonding. Throughout the more Leader witnessed the hunting of animals by people only for pleasure Meaningless killing of animals is evidenced at two times as the shooting of heron and the explosion made by Americans for fishing. These incidents harm narrator. Woman naturally by nature is tender hearted, caring and loving so the narrator is always careful of nature. She realizes that human and nature have an intimate relationship

because human being is akin to living with other human being. The nature like a woman who possesses quality of nature, that the navel 'surfacing' reveals in one of the incidents in which the narrator is informed of the father's missing. People think "She should be filled with death, (she) should be in mourning, (surfacing, p.160) But in reality, she is not in grief as know she is part of nature. She knows that death is also part of it. The narrator embraces the eco feminist intent when she realizes that the fulfillment of our humanity is profoundly linked with learning to appreciate the nature with and without (Atwood, 1972 P-43). The protagonist later on rejects to go back to the - constructed woman without any change. Then the novel decide to shaft in oratusal woman and wonted to live an a natural bay a male pres from bad burden of culture, she puts herself. in the entire natural world in the lake and these she want to be She immerses herself get power of salvation

" Hence When the from the depth of the lake, the surfaces with new knowledge protagonist surfaces about herself that entails a re-assessment of herself in relation to the world" (Atwood p.82). The Protagonist reveals eco feminist bent of Mind by that human being are not radically separate from that the fulfillment of own humanity is profoundly linked with learning to appreciate the nature within us and without" (Atwood P. 40)

The protagonist realize she is artificially constructed woman when she encounters nature. Atwood emphasized the fact men exploits bodies of women for their needs They even control the process of childbirth which nature her assigned only to women. The protagonist also questions, is the guise of assisting woman rob her of the ability to sense held bodily shythm. The novelist tries to reveal the relationship between exploited narrator and the damaged landscape in Quebec. She realize nature has helped her in discovering her real self!

The narrator in 'Surfacing!' compares herself with heron. She compares brutal hurder of heron with the death of her psychology, she feels disgust with American's action of killing heron she feels it one kind of harassment of woman, she says " Why had they string it up like a fet victim, why didn't they just throw it away like the to thrash & To prove they I could do it, they had a the power to kill, otherwise, it was valueless they only relations they could have to a thing like that was to destroy" (surfacing, p.80)

She linker her own life with nature, she is able to perceive the rhythm of nature, it's life cycle of life and death. She survives on natural resources as mashroom, plants and natural resources as mash berries. She merges with. the plants and trees. She feels

“Through the freed the sun glances; The twamp around me smolders, energy of decay turning to growth, green fise. I remember the heron; by now it will be insects, frogs, Fish and other reasons. b. my body also changes, the creature in me, plant -animal sends but filaments in me, I Ferry et secure between death and life I multiply”

Like a true eco logiest she makes the earth her literal tome for she knows that in the natural world all life is interrelated. She is not afraid one. She becomes one with her Sacred Mother earth. She throws away all her respect to seek harmony. That totally relies on nature. The gains freedom now. Firmly 2001ed to the earth like the original people.

Protagonist realizes the difference between the life of mother on island and her own. city life, Mother accepted The values and tradition, that respect the nature She was capable of protecting her family's life. But protagonist migrates to city and get exploited there. She decieved by her lover. she become pregnant by him and compelled to abort child she hates hole mechanized the process.

Thus in ‘surfacing’ Atwood trces to explores connection between woman’s oppression and exploitation of nature the narrator is nictim of exptionatation by patriaschal society. She is married to a man with children. She is a representative of Canadian psyche,peminine,passive identity suffering. She becomes an embodiment of woman empowerment who protest against patriarchal domination

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